

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Number: Opto 19 | Date: March 24, 2005 | Page: 1 of 1 |
| Subject: Optometry benefits rate changes effective April 1, 2005 | | Reference: Schedule of Optometric Benefits |

To: all optometrists and billing staff

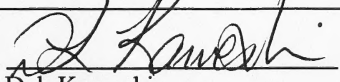
Effective April 1, 2005 the rates for basic optometry services listed in the Schedule of Optometric Benefits will be increased by 2.9 per cent over the April 1, 2004 rates, as per the current agreement between Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW) and the Alberta Association of Optometrists (AAO). There are **no changes** to the General Rules in the schedule.

Please note, the temporary increase for basic optometry services that was triggered by the Default Price Adjustment Mechanism and which came into effect January 1, 2005, will expire at the end of business, March 31, 2005. The April 1, 2005 benefit rates reflect a 2.9 per cent increase over the April 1, 2004 rates, and **not** an increase over the temporary rates in effect until March 31, 2005. The rates in effect as of April 1, 2005 are as follows:

| Health service code | April 1, 2005 rate for children (18 and under) | April 1, 2005 rate for seniors (65 and older) |
|---------------------|---|--|
| B650 | \$42.80 | \$48.54 |
| B651 | 28.32 | 32.12 |
| B652 – B659 | 16.21 | 18.37 |
| B660 | 42.80 | 48.54 |
| B661 | 28.32 | 32.12 |

A copy of the April 1, 2005 Schedule of Optometric Benefits is enclosed and will also be available on-line in early April at www.health.gov.ab.ca/professionals/allied.html. Explanatory Codes are not included with the enclosed schedule, but can be accessed through the web link.

If you have any questions about the Default Price Adjustment Mechanism, please contact the AAO directly. Inquiries about claim submissions can be made to the contact area noted below.

| | |
|---|---|
| Contact: Claims Processing Telephone: Local (780) 422-1600 Toll Free 310-0000 Fax: (780) 422-3552 | Approval:  Deb Kaweski Position: Director Master Agreement & Negotiations Branch |
|---|---|

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA
Bibliothèque et Archives Canada



3 3286 53764754 3